

HOUSE BILL NO. 678

INTRODUCED BY COHENOUR

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REVISING LENGTH LIMITS ON TRIPLE-TRAILER TRUCK CONFIGURATIONS; AND AMENDING SECTION 61-10-124, MCA."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

Section 1. Section 61-10-124, MCA, is amended to read:

"61-10-124. (Temporary) Special permits -- fees. (1) Except as provided in subsections (2)(b), (2)(d), and (4), in addition to the regular registration and gross vehicle weight fees, a fee of \$10 for each trip permit and a fee of \$75 for each term permit issued for size in excess of that specified in 61-10-101 through 61-10-104 must be paid for all movements under special permits on the public highways under the jurisdiction of the department of transportation.

(2) (a) Except as provided in subsections (2)(b), (2)(d), (2)(f), (4), and (5), term or blanket permits may not be issued for an overwidth vehicle, combination of vehicles, load, or other thing in excess of 15 feet; an overlength vehicle, combination of vehicles, load, object, or other thing in excess of 95 feet; or an overheight vehicle, combination of vehicles, load, or other thing in excess of 14 feet or of a limit determined by the department. A vehicle, combination of vehicles, load, or other thing in excess of these dimensions is limited to trip permits. Except as provided in subsection (2)(g), a Rocky Mountain double may not exceed 81 feet in combined trailer length. A Rocky Mountain double is not subject to a combination length limit. Special permits for vehicle combinations of more than two trailers or more than two units designed for or used to carry a load are not permitted except as provided in subsections (4) and (5). Special permits for vehicle combinations may specify and special permits under subsections (4) and (5) must specify highway routing and otherwise limit or prescribe conditions of operation of the vehicle or combination, including but not limited to required equipment, speed, stability, operational procedures, and insurance.

(b) A term permit may be issued to a dealer in implements of husbandry and self-propelled machinery for an overwidth or overlength vehicle referred to in subsection (2)(a). The fee for this permit is \$75. This permit expires on December 31 of each year, with no grace period.

(c) With payment of the appropriate gross weight fees required by 61-10-201 and with payment of the

1 fee prescribed in subsection (1), allowable gross weight of a five-axle combination logging vehicle is 80,000
2 pounds.

3 (d) A term permit may be issued for any combination of vehicles that exceeds 95 feet in length but does
4 not exceed 100 feet in combination length, except a truck-trailer-trailer or a truck tractor-semitrailer-trailer-trailer
5 combination, for travel only on highways that are part of the federal-aid interstate system, as defined in 60-1-103,
6 or on other highways within a 2-mile radius of an interchange on the interstate system in order to obtain
7 necessary services or to load or unload at a terminal. When a terminal is beyond a 2-mile radius, the department
8 may authorize travel between the terminal and the interchange. The fee for this permit is \$125.

9 (e) A term permit may be issued for a truck tractor-semitrailer combination when the semitrailer exceeds
10 53 feet in length but does not exceed 57 feet in length.

11 (f) (i) An annual permit may be issued for nondivisible loads up to 120 feet in length. The fee for this
12 permit is \$125.

13 (ii) Portions of a nondivisible load hauled on a public road off of the interstate highway may be detached
14 and reloaded on the same hauling unit if the separate pieces are necessary to the operation of the machine or
15 equipment that is being hauled and if the arrangement does not exceed limits for which a permit may be issued.

16 (iii) An applicant for a nondivisible load permit for use as provided in subsection (6)(b) is responsible for
17 providing information regarding the number of work hours required to dismantle the load.

18 (iv) For use as provided in subsection (6)(b) and for the purposes of this section, emergency response
19 vehicles and casks designed and used for the transport of spent nuclear materials are considered nondivisible
20 loads.

21 (g) A Rocky Mountain double carrying baled hay may not exceed 88 feet of combined trailer length.

22 (3) Except as provided in subsection (2)(b), a permit may not be issued for a period of time greater than
23 the period for which the GVW license is valid as provided in this title, including grace periods allowed by this title.
24 Owners of vehicles licensed in other jurisdictions may, at the discretion of the department of transportation,
25 purchase permits to expire with their registration. A license required by the state governs the issuance of a
26 special permit.

27 (4) The department may issue special permits to the operating company for a truck-trailer-trailer or truck
28 tractor-semitrailer-trailer-trailer combination of vehicles under the following conditions:

29 (a) the combination may be operated only on highways that are part of the federal-aid interstate system,
30 as defined in 60-1-103, and within a 2-mile radius of an interchange on the interstate system on other highways

only in order to obtain necessary services or to load or unload at a terminal. When a terminal is beyond a 2-mile radius, the department may authorize travel between the terminal and the interchange.

~~(b) the combined trailer length may not exceed 95 feet~~ a combination of vehicles powered by a cab-over or tilt-cab truck-tractor or a truck may not exceed an overall length of 105 feet, inclusive of front and rear bumpers and overhang;

~~(c) a combination of vehicles powered by a conventional truck-tractor may not exceed an overall length of 100 feet~~ 110 feet, inclusive of the front and rear bumpers and overhang;

~~(e)(d)~~ an individual cargo unit of the combination may not exceed 28 1/2 feet in length and 102 inches in width;

~~(d)(e)~~ gross weight fees under 61-10-201 must be paid on the truck or truck tractor for the declared registered gross weight of the special vehicle combination, but not to exceed the formula in 61-10-107;

~~(e)(f)~~ the combination must have a special overlength permit issued at a fee of \$200 for a term permit or \$20 for each trip permit;

~~(f)(g)~~ travel of the combination may be restricted to specific routes, hours of operation, specific days, or seasonal periods; and

~~(g)(h)~~ the department may enforce any other restrictions determined by the department to be necessary. The permit is not transferable, and the fee for the permit is \$200.

(5) The department of transportation may issue special permits under subsection (4) for vehicle combinations that consist of a truck-trailer-trailer if:

(a) the vehicle combination's overall length, inclusive of front and rear bumpers, is not more than 95 feet; and

(b) the person, firm, or corporation applying for the permit:

(i) restricts truck-trailer-trailer operations authorized by the permit to the hauling of talc ore, chlorite, dolomite, limestone, and custom combine equipment;

(ii) operated the truck-trailer-trailer combination before July 1, 1987;

(iii) restricts the truck-trailer-trailer operations authorized by the permit to the specified routes that those vehicles used before July 1, 1987; and

(iv) provides the department of transportation with an affidavit confirming the routes used before July 1, 1987, for truck-trailer-trailer operations.

(6) For the purposes of this section, a "nondivisible load" is:

1 (a) on public roads off of interstate highways, a load that cannot be readily or reasonably dismantled
2 and that is reduced to a minimum practical size and weight;

3 (b) on interstate highways, a load or vehicle exceeding applicable length or weight limits that, if
4 separated into smaller loads or vehicles, would:

5 (i) compromise the intended use of the vehicle;

6 (ii) destroy the value of the load or vehicle; or

7 (iii) require more than 8 work hours to dismantle using appropriate equipment. (Void on occurrence of
8 contingency--sec. 2, Ch. 285, L. 2003.)

9 **61-10-124. (Effective on occurrence of contingency) Special permits -- fees.** (1) Except as provided
10 in subsections (2)(b), (2)(d), and (4), in addition to the regular registration and gross vehicle weight fees, a fee
11 of \$10 for each trip permit and a fee of \$75 for each term permit issued for size in excess of that specified in
12 61-10-101 through 61-10-104 must be paid for all movements under special permits on the public highways
13 under the jurisdiction of the department of transportation.

14 (2) (a) Except as provided in subsections (2)(b), (2)(d), (2)(f), (4), and (5), term or blanket permits may
15 not be issued for an overwidth vehicle, combination of vehicles, load, or other thing in excess of 15 feet; an
16 overlength vehicle, combination of vehicles, load, object, or other thing in excess of 95 feet; or an overheight
17 vehicle, combination of vehicles, load, or other thing in excess of 14 feet or of a limit determined by the
18 department. A vehicle, combination of vehicles, load, or other thing in excess of these dimensions is limited to
19 trip permits. A Rocky Mountain double may not exceed 81 feet in combined trailer length. A Rocky Mountain
20 double is not subject to a combination length limit. Special permits for vehicle combinations of more than two
21 trailers or more than two units designed for or used to carry a load are not permitted except as provided in
22 subsections (4) and (5). Special permits for vehicle combinations may specify and special permits under
23 subsections (4) and (5) must specify highway routing and otherwise limit or prescribe conditions of operation of
24 the vehicle or combination, including but not limited to required equipment, speed, stability, operational
25 procedures, and insurance.

26 (b) A term permit may be issued to a dealer in implements of husbandry and self-propelled machinery
27 for an overwidth or overlength vehicle referred to in subsection (2)(a). The fee for this permit is \$75. This permit
28 expires on December 31 of each year, with no grace period.

29 (c) With payment of the appropriate gross weight fees required by 61-10-201 and with payment of the
30 fee prescribed in subsection (1), allowable gross weight of a five-axle combination logging vehicle is 80,000

1 pounds.

2 (d) A term permit may be issued for any combination of vehicles that exceeds 95 feet in length but does
3 not exceed 100 feet in combination length, except a truck-trailer-trailer or a truck tractor-semitrailer-trailer-trailer
4 combination, for travel only on highways that are part of the federal-aid interstate system, as defined in 60-1-103,
5 or on other highways within a 2-mile radius of an interchange on the interstate system in order to obtain
6 necessary services or to load or unload at a terminal. When a terminal is beyond a 2-mile radius, the department
7 may authorize travel between the terminal and the interchange. The fee for this permit is \$125.

8 (e) A term permit may be issued for a truck tractor-semitrailer combination when the semitrailer exceeds
9 53 feet in length but does not exceed 57 feet in length.

10 (f) (i) An annual permit may be issued for nondivisible loads up to 120 feet in length. The fee for this
11 permit is \$125.

12 (ii) Portions of a nondivisible load hauled on a public road off of the interstate highway may be detached
13 and reloaded on the same hauling unit if the separate pieces are necessary to the operation of the machine or
14 equipment that is being hauled and if the arrangement does not exceed limits for which a permit may be issued.

15 (iii) An applicant for a nondivisible load permit for use as provided in subsection (6)(b) is responsible for
16 providing information regarding the number of work hours required to dismantle the load.

17 (iv) For use as provided in subsection (6)(b) and for the purposes of this section, emergency response
18 vehicles and casks designed and used for the transport of spent nuclear materials are considered nondivisible
19 loads.

20 (3) Except as provided in subsection (2)(b), a permit may not be issued for a period of time greater than
21 the period for which the GVW license is valid as provided in this title, including grace periods allowed by this title.
22 Owners of vehicles licensed in other jurisdictions may, at the discretion of the department of transportation,
23 purchase permits to expire with their registration. A license required by the state governs the issuance of a
24 special permit.

25 (4) The department may issue special permits to the operating company for a truck-trailer-trailer or truck
26 tractor-semitrailer-trailer-trailer combination of vehicles under the following conditions:

27 (a) the combination may be operated only on highways that are part of the federal-aid interstate system,
28 as defined in 60-1-103, and within a 2-mile radius of an interchange on the interstate system on other highways
29 only in order to obtain necessary services or to load or unload at a terminal. When a terminal is beyond a 2-mile
30 radius, the department may authorize travel between the terminal and the interchange.

1 ~~(b) the combined trailer length may not exceed 95 feet~~ a combination of vehicles powered by a cab-over
2 or tilt-cab truck-tractor or a truck may not exceed an overall length of 105 feet, inclusive of front and rear
3 bumpers and overhang;

4 (c) a combination of vehicles powered by a conventional truck-tractor may not exceed an overall length
5 of 100 110 feet, inclusive of the front and rear bumpers and overhang;

6 ~~(c)(d)~~ (d) an individual cargo unit of the combination may not exceed 28 1/2 feet in length and 102 inches
7 in width;

8 ~~(d)(e)~~ (e) gross weight fees under 61-10-201 must be paid on the truck or truck tractor for the declared
9 registered gross weight of the special vehicle combination, but not to exceed the formula in 61-10-107;

10 ~~(e)(f)~~ (f) the combination must have a special overlength permit issued at a fee of \$200 for a term permit
11 or \$20 for each trip permit;

12 ~~(f)(g)~~ (g) travel of the combination may be restricted to specific routes, hours of operation, specific days,
13 or seasonal periods; and

14 ~~(g)(h)~~ (h) the department may enforce any other restrictions determined by the department to be necessary.
15 The permit is not transferable, and the fee for the permit is \$200.

16 (5) The department of transportation may issue special permits under subsection (4) for vehicle
17 combinations that consist of a truck-trailer-trailer if:

18 (a) the vehicle combination's overall length, inclusive of front and rear bumpers, is not more than 95
19 feet; and

20 (b) the person, firm, or corporation applying for the permit:

21 (i) restricts truck-trailer-trailer operations authorized by the permit to the hauling of talc ore, chlorite,
22 dolomite, limestone, and custom combine equipment;

23 (ii) operated the truck-trailer-trailer combination before July 1, 1987;

24 (iii) restricts the truck-trailer-trailer operations authorized by the permit to the specified routes that those
25 vehicles used before July 1, 1987; and

26 (iv) provides the department of transportation with an affidavit confirming the routes used before July
27 1, 1987, for truck-trailer-trailer operations.

28 (6) For the purposes of this section, a "nondivisible load" is:

29 (a) on public roads off of interstate highways, a load that cannot be readily or reasonably dismantled
30 and that is reduced to a minimum practical size and weight;

1 (b) on interstate highways, a load or vehicle exceeding applicable length or weight limits that, if
2 separated into smaller loads or vehicles, would:

3 (i) compromise the intended use of the vehicle;

4 (ii) destroy the value of the load or vehicle; or

5 (iii) require more than 8 work hours to dismantle using appropriate equipment."

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